

**From:** Jason Straight  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 11/17/01 2:04am  
**Subject:** Give me a choice - No more Microsoft Taxation!

My biggest complaint about MS comes when I need to purchase a new PC from a large computer vendor like Dell, Gateway, etc. Most of them have such an iron clad deal where MS requires them to ship all new computers with some form of windows or face losing bonuses and refunds. For instance I recently purchased a Dell laptop and I told them I didn't want an operating system on it (I was going to install linux on it, and I already own various versions of the windows operating system I don't use that if I wanted windows on my laptop I could have used). Anyway I argued with the salesperson about not wanting windows or the extra Microsoft software (MS works and expeditamaps, etc...) to no avail. I was told that I couldn't get the computer without the software bundle. So I was stuck paying for extra garbage I didn't want. It would have been the same with many other vendors as well. So now I have yet another copy of windows I don't need but was forced to pay for.

Imagine if you will that you are allergic to anchovies, yet everywhere you went to get pizza they said that you had to have them whether you wanted them or not, and you had to pay extra for them. But you insisted you didn't want them to no avail and they explained that if they wanted to carry anchovies at all, for the people who do want them, that the anchovie foundation said they had to put them on every pizza or they wouldn't get paybacks for sending out every pizza with anchovies.

Or you buy a car and they force you to pay extra for air conditioning when you live in alaska.

You buy a house and they force you to buy an expensive refrigerator with the house when you already have a brand new one you planned on using.

You go to wal-mart and buy a computer and the computers there have been modified to force you to use a certain internet provider when you've already pre-paid a year at another provider who won't give you a refund now.

What if you were forced to flush 20 sheets of toilet paper down the toilet every time you flushed it even though you only pee'd? What a waste that is.

I could go on forever with examples of nearly illegal annecdotes like these but even though it may not be "illegal" the way MS does it now it certainly should be. I forces the consumers to pay for microsoft software whether they use it or not. I know of only 1 entity that can do this legally. The government, it's called tax. Who appointed MS a governemtn entity?

Answer: The government of the US did by allowing these types of things to go on for too long. Next time I have to pay the MS tax when I buy a new computer I'll be sure to write it off as tax exempt donation to a branch of the new US

government.

Actually that poses me an Idea, if the gov't can't control MS they should protect the people by offering a refund at tax time if we send in real microsoft licenses with our tax refunds.

I've got a collection that could bring me a good refund next year.

There's no question Microsoft isn't stupid they ride the edge of the laws on this stuff for sure, it's time for new laws governing these kinds of practices. I don't mean rewrite the constitution to cripple business I mean write laws that put any company who owns more than 75% market share of any type that could be considered a necessity into the category of a utility provider. A utility provider that can be regulated by stricter laws than those who don't have a monopoly.

Telephone companies, power companies, etc... many of them are regulated in some way, in how they interact with citizens, however MS is allowed to go on running however they see fit. Another perfect example:

I run an internet provider in an area where the telephone company service is wretched, no matter how much I dislike them and their poor service I have to use them, but at least the gov't regulations tell them they can't force me to pay \$80/mo for basic service which sucks, and tack on extra services on top of the \$80 when I don't want them, then on top of it, as much as I hate the service I'm forced to pay a re-installation fee every year of \$500 just because they decided to upgrade the lines in the area, which really wasn't an upgrade when you consider the rotten quality I was getting before. This "upgrade" is nothing more than fixing a couple of the problems that I shouldn't have been having in the first place. Ameritech can't get away with it, but Microsoft can.

Want to make sure MS can't keep hurting the public like this then you'll have to tell MS they can't make deals like that with computer manufacturers, but MS covered their ass well on this one. Actually you should be telling the computer manufacturers they aren't allowed to force sales like that on consumers, that they have to offer to sell machines without windows at a price reduction reflecting the manufacturers suggested retail price of the software. Oh but that won't work either, because they'd just hike the prices to cover buying MS software even if they had to throw it in the garbage to make sure they made their quota with MS to get the cash back. You're screwed, there's nothing you can do to protect the customers unless you stop that company and stop them good.

Microsoft has a strangle hold on the industry through the applications that microsoft software runs, if there were alternatives that could run the applications produced for MS software there would then be choice for consumers in what they wanted to use, not what X computer manufacturer told them they had to buy. Force MS to open source and make free their API's so

that other operating systems can be made to run applications and games written for microsoft windows. If linux, freebsd, BeOS, Mac OSX, Solaris, IRIX could run the same microsoft office and quickbooks pro you get off the shelf, why would anyone use windows at all? It's certainly not the better choice for any reason other than the software available for it, in many instances there are cheaper alternatives to windows that are more stable and even as friendly to use, not to mention secure but MS was allowed to grow to epic proportions and force software makers, computer makers and other companies to solely support MS and if they support anyone else they feel the wrath of losing big \$\$\$\$. Like a MS fine.

Give choice back to the people.

In many ways Microsoft has become the government of the computer industry, they have laws (sell windows with every pc, don't support our foes, etc.), they have fines if the makers break the laws by not giving them their cut of the collected taxes. And through the makers they impose taxes forcing you to pay them \$\$\$ for something you don't use. At least when I pay taxes I'm paying for a strong government to protect me ( I think anyway).

Fine them a million dollars every time there's a security exploit for windows, they'll be gone in a month.

Switch all the government PC's over to a free operating system like linux use the \$\$\$ saved on software licenses to contract out programmers to write software for the gov't that could also be used in the private sector then sell it. MS loses money, alternative operating systems gain needed applications and you make money in the end selling the software.

Don't allow them to stray from the standards of HTML with their browser. If it's not part of w3c then they are breaking the law.

It's imperative that MS not be allowed to become the self appointed anything. Right now they are the self appointed government of the computer industry, if they aren't forced to follow existing standards on the internet they'll own that soon too.

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Jeet Kune Do does not beat around the bush. It does not take winding detours. It follows a straight line to the objective. Simplicity is the shortest distance between two points.  
Bruce Lee - Tao of Jeet Kune Do

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